

REMARKS

In the September 7, 2011 Office Action¹, the Examiner:

- Required confirmation of the oral August election of Species 2 (Figure 5), claims 7, 8, 13, 14 and 17;
- Rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite;
- Rejected claims 7, 8, 13, 14 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 3-26406 to Tamada et al. ("Tamada").

By the present amendment, Applicants amend claim 7. Claims 11, 12, 15, 20 and 21 are withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected species and claims 7, 8, 13, 14 and 17 remain pending and subject to further examination.

I. Election of Species

Applicants confirm the oral August 29, 2011 election of Species 2 (Figure 5), including claims 7, 8, 13, 14 and 17.

II. Rejection of Claim 7 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected Claim 7 as being indefinite based on the recitation of "said manipulating member being separated from said pressing member." The Examiner points out, as claim 7 also recites, the disclosed "manipulating member" is in fact physically adjacent to the "pressing member." Obviously, Applicants meant the term "separated from" to mean the "manipulating member" was distinct from and not a physical part of "the pressing member," as opposed to meaning placed at a physical

¹ The Office Action may contain statements reflecting characterization of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

distance from the "pressing member," since a thing cannot be both simultaneously adjacent and placed at a distance from something.

In any event, to advance the prosecution, and without acknowledging the validity of the Examiner's assertion, Applicants have amended claim 7 to remove the term "separated." Moreover, Applicants expressly intend the new term "operable separately from said pressing member" to mean that the "manipulating member" and the "pressing member" are in fact two separate and distinct members, albeit "adjacent to" each other.

As shown, for example, in Fig. 5, manipulating member 124 is operable separately from a pressing member 42. More specifically:

...when the manipulating member 124 is rotated relative to the carrying member 40 in a desired direction while the anchoring member 134 is loosened, the manipulating member 124 is linearly moved relative to the carrying member 40 in the axial direction, under the screwing motion of the feed screw structure 44 (the external thread 126 and the internal thread 128) and, following thereto, the pressing member 42 is linearly moved relative to the guide bush 22 and the carrying member 40 in the axial direction, under the guiding function of the fitting portion 82 (the outer circumferential surface 130 and the inner circumferential surface 132). (Specification, page 29, lines 18-30).

In view of this amendment, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

III. Rejection of Claims 7, 8, 13, 14 and 17 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has stated that Tamada teaches a guide bush (32) and an adjusting mechanism (Fig. 1), the adjusting mechanism including a carrying member (31), a pressing member (35), a feed screw (38, 39), a manipulating member (34) and an anchoring member (40). Tamada actually describes "a collet 32", "a collet body 31", "a tapered sleeve 35", "a female thread 33 and a male thread 39", "a keyway 34" and "an annular stepped portion 40", as the features of an illustrated embodiment.

As depicted in Figs. 2 and 3 of Tamada, a keyway 34 (interpreted by the Examiner as a manipulating member) is formed directly on a collet body 31 (interpreted as a carrying member), on which a male thread 39 (interpreted as a feed screw) is also formed. This configuration, using the Examiner's terminology, places the "feed screw" between "carrier member" 31 and a thrust housing 37, and not "between said carrying member and said manipulating member" as claim 7 requires.

Further, keyway 34 is not provided with "a manipulation section for manipulating said feed screw structure to cause said screwing motion." As is disclosed in Applicants' specification, by way of example and not limitation:

... outer circumferential surface 124 a of the manipulating member 124 is exposed outside, adjacent to the outer circumferential surface 42 d of the pressing member 42, at a position near the front face 40 b of the carrying member 40. In this state, **the outer circumferential surface 124 d of the manipulating member 124 acts as a manipulation section for manipulating the feed screw structure 44 to cause its screwing motion.** (Specification, page 28, line 1-8, emphasis added)

There is no corresponding structure "provided on said manipulating member" in Tamada, as is required by claim 7.

Accordingly, contrary to the Examiner's statement, keyway 34 of Tamada does not correspond to "a manipulating member" of the claimed invention.

In the Tamada arrangement, collet 32 is operated to open or close due to an axial motion of the thrust housing 37. The axial motion of thrust housing 37 is caused by a forward or reverse rotation of a spindle 21, and is converted to a pushing or releasing motion of a tapered sleeve 35 relative to the collet 32. Thus, Tamada does not describe or suggest any features corresponding to the claimed "manipulating member" that is "mounted on said carrying member adjacent to said pressing member,"

is "operable separately from said pressing member," and includes "a manipulation section for manipulating said feed screw structure to cause said screwing motion," in which "said feed screw structure is provided between said carrying member and said manipulating member."

At least in view of the foregoing, and the fact that claims 8, 13, 14 and 17 depend from claim 7, Applicant respectfully submit that the pending claims are not anticipated by Tamada and request that the rejection of claims 7, 8, 13, 14 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of all pending claims 7, 8, 13, 14 and 17.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

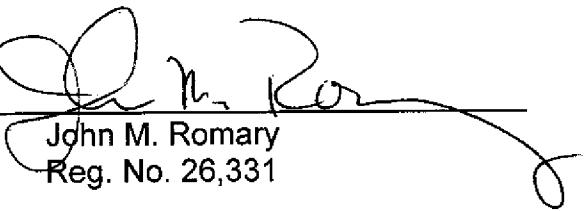
Respectfully submitted,

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